

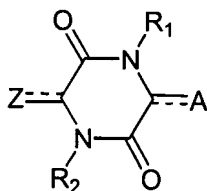
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A compound having the formula:



wherein

each of ---- and ----, independently, is a single bond or a double bond;

A is H or CH(R^aR^b) when ---- is a single bond, or C(R^aR^b) when ---- is a double bond;

Z is CH(R^eR^d) when ---- is a single bond, or R₃O-(Ar)-C(R^e) when ---- is a double bond; in which Ar is pyridyl linked to C at position 2; and R₃ is C₁-C₆ alkyl substituted with aryl, C(O)R^f, or S(O)R^f;

each of R₁ and R₂, independently, is H or C(O)R^g;

R^a is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, or C₃-C₈ heterocycloalkyl; R^b is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or aryl; or R^a and R^b taken together are C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; or R₁ and R^a or R₁ and R^b taken together are C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

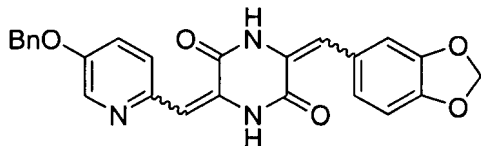
R^a is benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl; R^b is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or aryl; or R^a and R^b taken together are C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; or R₁ and R^a or R₁ and R^b taken together are C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈ heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

~~R^e is aryl or heteroaryl; R^d is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, or C₃-C₈ heterocycloalkyl; in which aryl is substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, dialkylamino, diarylamino,~~

~~cyano, nitro, mercapto, carbamido, carbamoyl, carboxyl, thioureido, thiocyanato, sulfonamido, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, aryl, and aryloxy; and heteroaryl and C₃-C₈ heterocycloalkyl are substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, dialkylamino, diarylamino, cyano, nitro, mercapto, carbamido, carbamoyl, carboxyl, thioureido, thiocyanato, sulfonamido, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₄-C₆ alkoxy, and aryloxy;~~

each of R^e and R^f, independently, is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, aryl, or arylamino; and
R^g is H, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or aryl.

15. (Original) The compound of claim 14, wherein ~~----~~ is a double bond.
16. (Original) The compound of claim 15, wherein ~~----~~ is a double bond.
17. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 16, wherein R^{a'} is benzo[1,3]dioxol-5-yl.
18. (Original) The compound of claim 17, wherein R^{b'} is H.
19. (Original) The compound of claim 18, wherein R_e is H.
20. (Original) The compound of claim 19, wherein R₃ is benzyl.
21. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 20, wherein the compound is



22. (Original) The compound of claim 15, wherein ~~----~~ is a single bond.
23. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 14, wherein ~~----~~ is a single bond.
24. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 23, wherein ~~----~~ is a single bond.

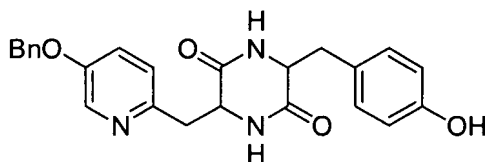
25. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 24, wherein R_c is 2-pyridyl substituted with arylalkoxy at position 5.

26. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 25, wherein R^d is H.

27. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 26, wherein R^a is aryl or heteroaryl.

28. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 27, wherein R^b is H.

29. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 28, wherein the compound is



30. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 23, wherein \equiv is a double bond.